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INSUFFICIENT CONSUMER GOODS FOR MERCHANT MARINE

The "Opskrba Brodova" (Ship Supply) Enterprise has the duty of supplying consumer goods to all enterprises of the merchant marine, cooperative ships, privately owned ships which have been included in the state economic plan, and foreign ships in Yugoslav harbors. About 3,900 sailors were furnished with guaranteed / i.e., rations / and supplementary food supplies in 1947, as compared with 4,400 in 1948. This increase reflections flects the growth of the merchant marine during that period.

Sailors are issued R-1 ration cards, Those serving in foreign waters may supplement their rations with food purchased abroad. Lighthouse keepers may have R-1 cards if their working and living conditions justify it. Lighthouse beepers in isolated and remote lighthouses receive a special bonus in addition to their guaranteed ration of 2 kilograms of breadstuffs and 3 kilograms of legumes. They also are issued firewood.

At the end of 1948, the food supply of harbor transport workers was improved by their reclassification from R-1 to R-b, and by the issue of a fourth ration when at work. However, sufficient quantities of foodstuffs, especially winter food, have been difficult to obtain.

The daily ration in merchant marine restaurants for breakfast and supper in 1948 everaged about 2,600 calories. Lack of refrigeration facilities and dishes prevented the establishment of many more blue- and whitecollar workers' restaurants, although they are badly needed.

The Miriatic Navigation Line was able to supply only 30 percent of the clothing and shoes it was supposed to distribute in 1948. Considerable foreign exchange will be saved when the supply services are able to satisfy the needs of sailors on duty in foreign ports, who have been buying shoes and clothing abroad.

All executive navigation personnel (lighthouse keepers, harbor watchmen, harbor lieutenants, and harbor captains) were supplied with uniforms; and coats and, to some extent, with raincoats in 1948. Present supplies of these articles are not sufficient to fill all needs. The supply of shoes to navigation personnel was also inadequate.

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